

Transportation Conformity Working Group

Interagency Consultation

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, June 27, 2006
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Southern California Association of Governments
818 W 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Riverside 'A' Conference Room

The following minutes are intended to **summarize** the matters discussed.
An audiocassette tape of the actual meeting is available for listening in SCAG's office.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by Jennifer Bergener, OCTA.

2.0 WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Alameddine, Caltrans
Debbie Anderson, City of Riverside
Rosemary Ayala, SCAG
Grace Balimer, FHWA/FTA
Dennis Barton, City of Highland
Steve Beswick, City of Temecula
Meenu Chandan, Caltrans District 8
Marlin Feenstra, RCTC
Hans Giroux, City of Riverside
Carol Gomez, SCAQMD
Ashad Hamideh, LAC MTA
Ashraf Habbak, Caltrans
Michael Houlihan, Michael Brandman Assoc.
Edison Jaffery, Caltrans
Jessica Kirchner, SCAG
Keith Lay, LSA Assoc..
Marge Lazarus, City of Moreno Valley
Julian Lester, Environ
Ken Lobeck, RCTC
Tony Louka, Caltrans
Rich Macias, SCAG
Shudeish Mahadev, Parsons
Laleh Modrek, Caltrans District 8
Jonathan Nadler, SCAG
Olufemi Osufalu, Caltrans District 8

Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG
Lisa Poe, SANBAG
Arnie Sherwood, ITS/UCB/SCAG
David Speirs, Parsons
Alan Thompson, SCAG
Carla Walecka, TCA

VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters
Armand Behtash, Caltrans District 12
Ben Cacatian, Ventura County APCD
Jackie Clayton, Caltrans District 11
Paul Fagan, Caltrans District 8
Maureen Harake, Caltrans District 12
Sandy Johnson, Caltrans District 11
Jean Mazur, FHWA
Roseanna Navarro-Brasington, Mojave
Desert/Antelope Valley AQMD
Karina O'Connor, EPA Region 9
Dan Phu, Parsons
Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD
Susan Sturges, EPA Region 9
Dennis Wade, ARB

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments at the meeting.

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair Report at the meeting.

5.0 Consent Calendar

5.1 Approval of the March 28, 2006 Meeting Summary

MOTION was made to MOVE the summary of the May 23, 2006 meeting.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 RTIP Update

Staff had concluded its analysis of 2006 RTIP and it is now posted on SCAG's website. The 30 day public review began on June 26th and will end on July 25th. The public hearing is schedule for June 29, at 10:00 a.m., at the SCAG office.

In order to meet conformity determination there are five test that the TIP must meet:

- consistency with the RTP
- the regional emissions analysis
- financial constraint
- timely implementation of transportation control measures
- public review and inter-agency consultation

SCAG is required to have the federal TIP to Caltrans headquarters on August 6. Staff will be going to the Regional Council on July 6 to request that they authorize the Executive Committee to have the authority to approve the release of the TIP.

6.2 TCM Update

Staff has analyzed the TCMs for all of the counties. There is one pending issue to be resolved; a substitution proposed by MTA for the replacement for the Thompson Creek Bicycle Trail (project ID: LA450022). Staff plans to resolve this issue during the public review period. There will be a separate submittal for this particular substitution that includes all of the requirements so the committee will be able to determine if it is an adequate substitution.

All of the TCM lists will be posted on SCAG's website as part of the RTIP. In the future, SCAG hopes to maintain a running list on the web of any TCM project that has been completed as well as any TCM replacement or substitution.

There will be a meeting of the TCM Working Group, on July 13, at SCAG from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., to begin discussion on staff input to the South Coast AQMP relative to TCMs. Once the TCM's that are circulating as part of the RTIP are finalized, they will be part of staff's input for the AQMP. The current TCM list is not all of SCAG's input, it is just part of it. The TCM Working Group will meet to further discuss the process for TCM identification and substitution prior to the scheduled TCWG meeting.

6.3 RTP Update

Staff went to the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) last month to get approval on how staff recommends moving forward with the RTP process. Staff has a two prong approach: 1) prepare a "Gap Analysis" to bring the 2004 RTP into compliance with the provisions of SAFETEA-LU, and 2) continue working towards a full update of the 2007 RTP. SCAG's current schedule is to adopt the next RTP in December 2007. If the Gap Analysis is approved, however, then SCAG can take advantage of the full four year RTP cycle.

The proposed RTP Amendment to add a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project called sbX ("San Bernardino Express") has been posted for public review and comments. There will be a public hearing on July 6 and the comment period closes on July 7.

Staff is still waiting for EPA approval for two TCM substitutions and a question was raised to EPA staff regarding the status of these projects. Karina O'Connor, EPA, reported that the two projects were bundled together and sent to EPA's Regional Administrator for his concurrence and is assumed to be on its way to EPA headquarters. EPA Region 9 is attempting to get the letter signed by the EPA Administrator some time this month.

6.4 SAFETEA-LU Earmark Project on I-5

Steve Novotny, Caltrans District 7, gave a presentation of the I-5 HOV and truck lane project. The project report and environmental document is scheduled to be completed by June 2008, the design to be completed in January 2010, and construction completion by June 2013. The project was submitted to MTA in the fall of 2005; it was not identified in the 2004 RTP as there was no funding identified for any phases. The project is still not identified in the 2004 RTP or the 2006 TIP but needs to be for the following reasons; 1) to not jeopardize the federal funding that is available, 2) to facilitate environmental document approval by June 2008 and, 3) to improve goods movement.

RTP staff noted that they had not had the opportunity to evaluate the project and that there would be financial implications that would have to be looked at to amend the project into the RTP. Conformity staff commented that the TCWG is not the place to start this request, but rather, Caltrans needs to submit a formal written request to SCAG so that RTP staff can research the request. Caltrans agreed to proceed with a formal request.

6.5 AQMP Update

The SCAQMD is reviewing some of the strategies that were identified at the Air Quality Summit held in June as well as looking at additional emission reduction strategies that will be reviewed internally.

The SC AQMD is still working on the emission inventories and has a target date of October 2006 for the release of the draft AQMP.

6.6 Interagency Review of Projects: PM Hot Spot Analysis

Twenty-two interagency review forms and associated information were submitted for TCWG review to determine whether or not they are "projects of air quality concern" (POAQC) for project-level conformity purposes. Time constraints precluded review of three of these projects. It was announced that future submittals will be reviewed by the TCWG on a first-come-first serve basis. The disposition of each of the projects submitted for the June 2006 TCWG meeting can be found at <http://scag.ca.gov/tcwg/projectlist/june06.htm#tcwgPlist0606>.

6.7 Information Sharing

There was no information sharing at the meeting.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

The next meeting of the TCWG will be on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 at SCAG.